

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 East Hampden Avenue | Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113 | www.Bethany-Denver.org | 303.758.2820



Casual Blended Worship Service
November 16, 2025
10:00am

Holiday Worship Schedule

**We know that many are already making holiday plans
and
we hope worshipping at Bethany is part of those plans!**

Here is the holiday worship schedule:

Thanksgiving Eve – 6:30pm

Christmas Eve –

11:00am (NEW!)

1:30pm (Outdoor Christmas Pageant)

3:00pm

5:00pm

7:00pm

Christmas Day – Recorded – drops at 6:00am

Sunday after Christmas – 12/28 – 10:00am service only

Epiphany Sunday – 1/4 – 10:00am service only

Service of Remembrance – 1/4 – 11:30am in the Chapel

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Gathering Music

Three Voluntaries
II. Andante I. Allegro

Denis Bédard

Welcome to Worship

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

Deacon Debra Alba



Song of Praise

Give Thanks

W&P 41

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

Text and music © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved. International © secured.

A Time of Confession

Deacon Debra Alba

Gracious God,

We admit that we have fallen short. In what we have said and done, and in what we have left undone, we have not loved you or our neighbors as we should. We have carried worries, guilt, and burdens that we struggle to release. We confess these to you now, trusting in your mercy. Forgive us, God. Lighten our load and guide us into a new way of living. Amen.

God's Gift of Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, hear this good news. God is merciful and full of love. Through Jesus, your sins are forgiven and your burdens are lifted. You are set free to walk in God's grace and to live in the joy of the resurrection. **Amen.**

Opening Song

Come, We That Love the Lord

ELW 625

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets
4 Then let our songs a-bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Greeting

Deacon Debra Alba

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God,

the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Anthem

Jesus, Our Brother, Kind and Good

arr. David Angerman

ReBELLion, dir. Alex Rodasti

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Avery Kristine Hancock - Born: May 16, 2025

Parents: Peter and Caroline Hancock

We gather at these living waters. Throughout history, God's saving action toward God's people has taken place through water. Let us pray:

Most Holy God, you created the seas, rivers, and lakes; you saved Noah and his family from the floods; you led the Israelites through the Red Sea and quenched their thirst with water flowing from a rock. Through the waters of the Jordan River, you proclaimed Jesus your own beloved son and so through these waters of baptism, you proclaim that we, too, are your own beloved children, now and forever. Amen.

Parents, do you wish Avery to be baptized into the promises of God?

R: I do.

We make promises and assume responsibilities at baptism. God promises us unconditional love and life forever, and we know that our journey of faith encompasses certain promises so that our lives reflect this love.

Parents, do you promise to: Live with your child among God's faithful people, bring your child to the Lord's table, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place the holy scriptures in their hands to nurture their faith and prayer life, so that they will know and trust God?

R: I do.

Parents, sponsors, people of God, do you promise to support and pray for Avery's new life in Christ?

R: We do.

Baptism: Avery Kristine, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer: Sustain Avery with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Blessing: Avery Kristine, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Let us welcome our new sibling in Christ!

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a member of the body of Christ, child of God's kingdom on earth and in heaven.

+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

Psalm 98

Anne Dana

- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
- ² **O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
- ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**
- ⁵ Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.
- ⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.
- ⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**
- ⁹ The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 21:5-19

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

- ⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." ⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.
- ⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.
- ¹² "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Song of the Day

Shout to the Lord

ELW 821



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.

My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;

let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise

to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the

sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.

Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

A Statement of Our Faith (Apostles' Creed)

Pastor Gary Sandberg

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

We Share God's Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace, please be seated.

Abundantly Bethany

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

- Bible Milestone Class
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Festival

+ WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

OFFERING

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **SubSplash** - Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the silver plate at the doors as you exit



Offering Music

Desert Song

Brooke Ligertwood

Sounds of Praise, dir. Paula Wills

This is my prayer in the desert, when all that's within me feels dry.

This is my prayer in my hunger and need; my God is the God who provides.

This is my prayer in the fire, in weakness or trial or pain.

There is a faith proved of more worth than gold; so refine me Lord through the flame.

I will bring praise, I will bring praise. No weapon formed against me shall remain.

I will rejoice, I will declare; God is my victory and He is here.

This is my prayer in the battle, when triumph is still on its way.

I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ, so firm on His promise I'll stand.

All of my life, in every season, you are still God;

I have a reason to sing. I have a reason to worship.

This is my prayer in the harvest, when favor and providence flow.

I know I'm filled to be emptied again. The seed I've received I will sow.

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Celebration of Holy Communion

Jesus shared meals with friends and strangers, turning ordinary tables into signs of God's kingdom.
We remember his welcome, and we come to be fed.

The story of God's love is told in bread and wine, in friendship and forgiveness.
We are part of this story today.

We come as those before us came, hungry for hope and longing to be made whole.
This is God's story. This is our story.

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

The Lord's Prayer *(Ecumenical translation)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion Instruction

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

Communion Distribution

Communion Music

Come, Now Is the Time to Worship

Sounds of Praise, dir. Paula Wills

Brian Doerksen, arr. Jack Schrader

*Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God.
One day every tongue will confess you are God. One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose you now.*

Communion Song

How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said,
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

Table Blessing

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Blessing

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Song of Sending

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

Dismissal

Pastor Gary Sandberg

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany.

Together we will:

Worship and encounter a God who loves us;

Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;

Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Three Voluntaries

Denis Bédard

III. Allegro

Things To Know About - News & Events

- ♦ **Senior High Mission Trip info session:** Are you going to be entering 9th-12th grade in the fall of 2026? Then this meeting is for you! Come on **TODAY** to learn the initial details for our summer mission trip in 2026! We are so excited to once again offer a faith-forming experience for our high school youth this summer. Come to room 412 at 11:20am on 11/16 to learn more.
- ♦ **Bethany's Bible Milestone: TODAY, 11:30am - 1:00pm, Great Hall.** This class is for children in grades 2nd - 5th and their adult caregivers. You are invited to enjoy a light lunch together and to participate in engaging and creative cross-generational learning activities around the theme of the Bible. Next **Sunday, Nov 23**, each child will be blessed and presented with a Bible during worship at the 10:00am service.
- ♦ **Rejoicing Spirits: TODAY 4:00-6:00pm, Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church 21755 E Smoky Hill Rd. Aurora, 80015.** Rejoicing Spirits is an inclusive worship space for people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities, their caregivers, families and anyone who seeks an open, joyful and creative worship experience. If you would like more information regarding the Rejoicing Spirits experience or volunteering, please contact: Pastor Margot at pastor@lordofthehills.org.
- ♦ **Bethany Information Sessions:** New Members will be received on **Sunday, Nov 23** at both worship services and a tour of the Bethany campus will be offered at 11:20am - meet in Room 400.
- ♦ **Family Promise Volunteers Needed:** Christ the Savior Lutheran Church is hosting Family Promise the week of Thanksgiving, **Nov 23-30**. Volunteers are needed to host overnight, drive the van, and prepare dinner on the night of the 23rd. Thank you, Theo Umlauf, for arranging to move the beds Sunday the 30th to the next host church. If you have any questions, please call Jean Scott at 303 756-2106 or email her at stlax@comcast.net.
- ♦ **Thanksgiving Eve: Wednesday, Nov 26.** Worship service at 6:30pm (Holden Evening Prayer) followed by a Pie Festival in the Fellowship Hall. We need pies! Sign up to bring a pie, to help setup, help with worship, and help with cleanup after the pie fest at the yellow bubble on the website home page. Please bring pies to the Fellowship Hall by 6:00pm that night. Thank you!
- ♦ **Senior Ministries:** The gatherings continue on Tuesdays through May 20, 10:00am-1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Any special activities will be communicated via our email list. If you'd like to be on the email list, contact Janet at Janet@Bethany-Denver.org. Join us for community fellowship, chapel, and lunch. Lunch is served at Noon each week, for a suggested donation of \$10/person. Payment can be either online or by check/cash. Check Bethany's website for the Nov/Dec schedule.
- ♦ **SNAP Benefits:** 600,000 Colorado SNAP recipients are directly impacted by the absence of these Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelabouni - "Today, I ask you to answer God's call to love and serve our neighbors who are affected by this crisis." There are many organizations in the Denver Metro Area that Bethany supports. Consider donating food, time or money to these, or any other organization you support: Metro Caring, Integrated Family Community Services, SAME Cafe and Bienvenidos Food Bank. Google them for more information.

Childcare Workers: We are hiring! Bethany is looking for reliable, fun, and nurturing childcare workers for our Sunday morning nursery. Hours are Sunday mornings from 8:00am-11:30am. Hiring will be dependent upon completion of a Safe Gatherings background check and Online Child Abuse Prevention Training to ensure all safety standards are met. For more information about the position, please contact Debra Alba at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org.

HOW TO HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- ♦ **MomCo (formerly MOPS) Bake Sale:** Put away your mixers and bakeware and let MomCo do the baking for you this Thanksgiving! Come browse our bounty of baked goods at the annual MomCo bake sale fundraiser held on **Sunday, Nov 23** from 8:00am-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be selling pies, breads, candies, cookies and our special cake pops! Our MomCo at Bethany group is so grateful to the congregation for its continued support over the last 30 years! MomCo is an international, outreach organization whose goal is to provide support and community for mothers with children of all ages.
- ♦ **Christmas Decorating: Sundays, Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, and 23.** We need lots of Christmas elves to decorate the inside and outside of the church after the 10:00am services during Community Time. Each Sunday we'll add more decorations. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday where we will assign decorating tasks throughout the church to make it as easy as possible. Let's make the church sing with tidings of great joy! Questions? Please contact Kristin at kmjanicek@aol.com.
- ♦ **Angel Tree for Lutheran Family Services:** The Angel Tree in the Narthex is full of Christmas tags for kids in their Foster Care Program. Select a tag from the tree or sign up at signupschedule.com/Bethany. All tree tags will include guidelines, gift requests and gift labels. Please label each gift with the recipient number and gift 1 or 2. All gifts need to be at church by **Sunday, Dec 7**. Thank you for making Christmas special for these kids.

For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the email blasts by contacting the office - 303.758.2820, or visit www.Bethany-Denver.org/Bethany-news/



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORSHIP

- ♦ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ♦ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ♦ **Sunday Worship services:** 8:30am Traditional - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy.
10:00am Casual Blended – a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.
- ♦ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ♦ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ♦ **Safety:** Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.
- ♦ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ♦ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!
- ♦ You are welcome to bring beverages into the Sanctuary but please use a covered container. And enjoy your food outside the Sanctuary (although we understand small children may need snacks!).
- ♦ **Children at Bethany:** Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
 - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship. Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
 - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
 - ⇒ **Nursery:** For directions to our Nursery, please speak with an usher. The Nursery will not be staffed during our 10:00am service but you are welcome to use it with your child.

Flowers in front of the pulpit today are given by Barb Magg in loving memory of Else and Karl Magg.